

2008 DNR FISHERIES, WILDLIFE, AND ECOLOGICAL ROUNDTABLE

a gathering of stakeholders who are interested in important fisheries, wildlife, and ecological resource issues

AGENDA and SCHEDULE – Day 1

FRIDAY JANUARY 4, 2008

12:00 Registration Table Opens St. Cloud Civic Center – Carlson Auditorium

1:00 pm Welcome and Introduction

1:10 BIOENERGY: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR MINNESOTA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Overview of Bioenergy in Minnesota

Shalini Gupta, Izaak Walton League and NextGen Board

Agriculture-based Bioenergy

Jim Kleinschmit, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Opportunities for Forest-based Bioenergy

Jim Bowyer, Bowyer and Associates

Why focus on Bioenergy? Bioenergy has the potential to change what we see (in terms of plants, animals, and relationships) on the Minnesota landscape. Bioenergy will stimulate the growing of different agricultural and forest crops in different places on the landscape. It is an important issue to explore with Fisheries, Wildlife, and Ecological Roundtable Stakeholders, who are citizens particularly attuned to changes in native plants, animals, and ecosystems and who are concerned about sustainable wild populations.

3:00 Break

3:30 **Individual Roundtables** (These are concurrent sessions. Participants are welcome to move between Individual Roundtables.)

Ecological Roundtable

Carlson Auditorium – St. Cloud Civic Center
Steve Hirsch, DNR

3:30 Welcome and Introduction

Bioenergy and Ecological Resources Management:

3:40 Statewide Conservation Plan's Approach to Bioenergy

David Mulla, Univ. of MN

4:10 Woody Biomass Guidelines – state of the art thinking

David Zumeta, MN Forest Res. Council

4:25 Panel Discussion focused on Participant Questions/Perspectives

(includes the plenary presenters)

5:15 Update on Aquatic Plant Management Rule Changes

Steve Hirsch, DNR

5:30 Adjourn

Fisheries Roundtable

Stockinger Suite – St. Cloud Civic Center

3:30 Welcome, Introduction, and Updates on Minnesota Fisheries

Ron Payer, DNR

3:45 Bioenergy and other Strategic Habitat Issues facing fisheries

An Interactive Process

4:40 Plan for Aquatic Management Areas

Dave Thompson, co-chair of plan committee

5:00 Research on Stocking

Don Pereira, DNR

5:15 Open Discussion focused on add'l RT Participant Questions/Perspectives

5:30 Adjourn

Wildlife Roundtable

Opportunities Suite – St. Cloud Civic Center

3:30 Welcome, Introduction, and Updates on Minnesota Wildlife

Dennis Simon, DNR

4:00 Simplifying Hunting Regulations Discussion

Lou Cornicelli, DNR; Group Discussion

5:00 Open Discussion focused on add'l RT Participant Questions/Perspectives

5:30 Adjourn

6:30 DNR-hosted Dinner

Kelly Inn Ballroom

7:30 **BIOENERGY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

Robert Elde, Dean –College of Biological Sciences, Univ. of MN (in Kelly Inn Ballroom)

9:00 Informal Stakeholder Discussions

various rooms in St. Cloud Civic Center

AGENDA and SCHEDULE – Day 2

SATURDAY JANUARY 5, 2008

7:00 am DNR-hosted Breakfast

Kelly Inn poolside

8:00 am **Individual Roundtables** (These are concurrent sessions. Participants are welcome to move between Individual Roundtables.)

Ecological Roundtable

8:00 Welcome Back
Prairie Resources: Ecology, Restoration, and Bioenergy
8:05 Overview of Prairie Seed Production and Bioenergy Project
8:15 Overview of RIM Clean Energy Project
8:25 Overview of state-sponsored Prairie Bioenergy-related Projects
8:35 Open Discussion focused on RT Participant Questions/Perspectives
9:30 Adjourn

Carlson Auditorium – St. Cloud Civic Center
Terri Yearwood, DNR

Jason Garms, DNR
Greg Larson, BWSR
Mark Lindquist, DNR

Fisheries Roundtable

8:00 Welcome Back
8:05 Overview of Long Range Plan for Esocids
8:25 Strategic Discussion of Fisheries Regulations
9:10 Open Discussion focused on add'l RT Participant Questions/Perspectives
9:30 Adjourn

Stockinger Suite – St. Cloud Civic Center
Ron Payer, DNR
Tim Goeman, DNR
An Interactive Process

Wildlife Roundtable

8:00 Welcome Back
8:10 Walk-In Access Discussion
8:50 Nontoxic Shot Survey Report Discussion
9:20 Open Discussion focused on add'l RT Participant Questions/Perspectives
9:30 Adjourn

Opportunities Suite – St. Cloud Civic Center
Dennis Simon, DNR
Bill Penning (DNR) and a panel of Stakeholders
David Fulton, Univ. of MN

9:30 am Break and Refreshments

outside Carlson Auditorium

10:00 Welcome to the final plenary session

Carlson Auditorium – St. Cloud Civic Center

10:10 THE GAME AND FISH FUND: challenges and opportunities

Dave Schad, DNR

10:30 The Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan

Jean Coleman, CR Planning

11:00 Key Messages from Minnesota Legislative Leadership

Bob Meier, DNR, moderator

11:30 Key Messages from DNR Leadership

Mark Holsten, Commissioner

12:15 Final Thoughts

12:30 DNR Hosted Lunch

Carlson Auditorium – St. Cloud Civic Center

Below is a slice of writing by Sigurd F. Olson, a famous Minnesota outdoorsman, activist, and writer. This and other selections of his writing can be found online at - <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/JMC/Olson/>.

The Raven

It was one of those days that duck hunters dread, a quiet, drowsy sort of day, the horizon blue with haze, not a cloud in the sky or a ripple on the water and the rice golden as a field of ripe wheat. Behind the blind, I could hear the soft chirrupings of wrens and chickadees, the lazy drones of insects, for the day was warm and summery as August.

I stood watching the horizon in a doze, a vague golden horizon bejeweled with clumps of yellowing aspen and flaming maple, marveling how all the colors seemed to fuse one into the other, wondering what would happen should I actually see a flutter of wings.

Gradually I became conscious of a movement far overhead, saw with a corner of my vision the broad black wingspread of a raven, watched it for a time with no apparent consciousness, its lazy, graceful drifting flight.

Though there was not a breath of wind below, the bird seemed to coast unseen air currents, taking advantage of high breezes that did not reach the surface of the earth. Hundreds of feet in long, clean sweeps and interminable spirals up and down, head turning, watching the blue-gold surface of the bay.

Then I knew that it was watching me, that in the back of its mind, it must be hoping that something might happen to the creature far below on the shoreline, hoping that it might have the opportunity of ridding the shore of the resulting offal should fate suddenly strike me low.

Closer and closer came the great bird, watching intently to see if I moved. Suddenly, it spiraled downward, and with a swift circling glide lit in a small pine tree just behind and proceeded to vent its disgust in the most raucous language imaginable, for I was, he found out, very much alive and perhaps exceedingly dangerous.

For a moment it sat there in glistening black, eyeing me desperately. Then, with a great beating of pinions, he took again to the air and disappeared to the south. I thought of the story of Elijah and the ravens and how they appeared to him in the wilderness, and I thought of the time a flock of them followed me down a lake when the ice was softening in the spring and how I saw them circling and went to shore just in time to escape skiing into a treacherous narrows. I thought of Poe and his raven, of the place it has made for itself in our literature. I thought too of the fascination it has to all men who know it, the beauty of its flight, grace itself when soaring high in the heavens, its voice that for sheer ugliness and discord had perhaps no equal on earth.

But I knew that nature always balances perfection of one kind with ugliness of another, that she never quite makes the error of achieving perfection.

I saw the raven once more far over the horizon, just a flash of wings as it turned against the sun. Then he was gone in the haze and I was alone once more.

